

SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT



Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace

- Small businesses may get health coverage in the **Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace**. The SHOP is a new program that simplifies the process of buying health insurance for your small business.
- All types of businesses are eligible, including non-profits. No employers are required to offer health coverage. If you are self-employed with no employees, you're not considered an employer. You can use the individual Marketplace to find coverage that fits your needs.
- Starting in 2014, small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees can use **SHOP** to offer coverage to their employees. Open enrollment begins October 1, 2013. You control the coverage you offer and how much you pay toward premium costs. Health coverage through SHOP starts as soon as January 1, 2014.
- Visit the <http://healthcare.gov> website to find more information about SHOP or access the 24/7 call center managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-318-2596.

You May Qualify for Tax Credits if you Offer Coverage Through SHOP

- If you have fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees making an average of around \$50,000 or less, you may qualify for a small business health care tax credit. The credit is only available if you get coverage through the **SHOP Marketplace**

Large Employers Could Face Penalties

- The Employer Shared Responsibility payment is a new requirement under the health care law for some large employers. **It applies only to employers with 50 or more full-time equivalent employees that do not offer coverage or whose coverage doesn't meet certain minimum standards.**



About the Affordable Care Act

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The law puts into place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will roll out over four years and beyond.

Key Features of the Affordable Care Act

- Free Preventative Care
- Rx Discounts for Seniors
- Protect Against Health Care Fraud
- Small Business Tax Credits
- Health Insurance Marketplace
- Consumer Assistance
- Pre-Existing Condition Coverage
- Benefits for Women
- Young Adult Coverage
- Strengthening Medicare

The act is aimed at increasing the affordability and rate of health insurance coverage for Americans and reducing the overall costs of health care (for individuals and the government). Additional reforms aim to improve healthcare outcomes and streamline the delivery of health care.

Find more information about the Affordable Care Act and SHOP Marketplace at **HealthCare.gov**